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An Inviting Field for a Collector.

BY W. E. SAFFORD.

On sending a package of plants collected by me in the Straits of Magellan to Dr. R. A. Philippi, of Santiago, Chile, the recognized authority on Chilian botany, he kindly determined for me a number of species which I had been unable to classify; and in his letter he says:

“I have received on different occasions lots of plants of the Strait and have been therefore highly astonished to find that among the seventy-eight species you sent me not less than four were undescribed, and of these two may, perhaps, be erected into new genera—the petals of the *Ranunculus* (?) *aberrans* are so aberrant, and the corolla and stamens of *Micromeria* (?) *pusilla* are likewise different enough from the same organs in the genuine species of that genus.”

The *Ranunculus* (?) to which Dr. Philippi refers is the glossy-leaved “*Ranunculus* or *Caltha*, somewhat like *R. Ficaria*,” which I collected at Gregory Bay, (see p. 19 of this volume), and the *Micromeria* (?) *pusilla*, Phil., is a small labiate from the same locality. The other new species are a *Draba* and a *Vicia*, which Dr. Philippi has described as *D. Saffordi* and *V. Saffordi*. The discovery of these four new species in one day’s collecting within a radius of two miles, shows how imperfectly the botanical field of the Eastern Strait-region has been explored. I am sure a botanist could find no field more inviting and at the same time accessible than the immediate vicinity of Gregory Bay. The regular lines of steamers to Valparaiso pass through the Strait, and all stop at Sandy Point, only a few miles farther on. At Sandy Point one could easily get an assistant and proceed in a boat to Gregory Bay. He ought to reach there by the first week in November, taking with him a supply of canned meats and vegetables from the United States. At Gregory Bay he could find comfortable shelter in the home of the shepherd.

He would, I am sure, be amply rewarded for any little privations by the result of his season’s work; and if he be fond of shooting, he could vary the monotony of his life when his presses are full, and at the same time supply his table with an abundance

of snipe, ducks and upland geese, all of which are remarkably tame and are very good to eat. The field would yield as good results to the ornithologist as to the botanist.

APIA, SAMOA, May 20, 1888.

Cheilanthes vestita, Sw., on New York Island.

The eastern range in the United States of the genus *Cheilanthes*, Sw., was extended to the Hudson and beyond by Prof. Eaton from a report of the collection of *C. vestita*, (Spreng.), Sw., by W. W. Denslow, in "clefts of rocks, island of New York," (*vide* Gray's Manual, p. 659). This collection was made over twenty years ago, somewhere on "Washington Heights," but the exact station seems to be nowhere recorded. I have searched in vain for any mention of a rediscovery of this station, and there has been some fear that this rare fern had become totally extinct on Manhattan Island. It was, therefore, with especial gratification that I found it, on the afternoon of July 15th, upon the summit of the rocky ridge west of the Kingsbridge Road, about on a line, I judge, with the future 195th Street. The bluff at this point is too steep to be climbed with safety, but may be readily ascended farther north by a path just beyond a little white frame building close to the road, called "Beck's Inwood House." The exact station is a number of rods south of the head of this path, near a rounded expanse of naked rock which forms the brow of the bluff at that point. Eight or ten plants were found within a space of two yards, and a rod or so away there is a scattering cluster of three or four more. They are growing in very thin soil, in shallow hollows (scarcely clefts) of the rock. Most of the fronds are of quite moderate size, only three or four inches in length, the largest under six, exclusive of the stipe. The agreement of the specimens collected (three fronds only!) with the description and figure in Gray's Manual is very close, except that the scattered hairs are whitish in color rather than rusty, and, though the longer ones are discernibly articulated, they are not "prominently" so. Increased age, however, will doubtless bring the fern into conformity with Prof. Eaton's description in these respects also. The only other fern noticed in the immediate neighborhood was *Asplenium platyneuron*, (L.), BSP., (= *A.*